United Nations A/RES/68/240

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 February 2014

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 69 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 December 2013

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/68/456/Add.1)*]

68/240. Human Rights Committee

The General Assembly,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols thereto,[1]

Welcoming the work of the Human Rights Committee, and encouraging sustained efforts by the Committee to improve the efficiency of its working methods,

Regretting the persistent backlog of communications under the first Optional Protocol to the Covenant[2] awaiting consideration, which prevents the Committee from considering communications in a timely manner and without undue delay,

Recalling its resolutions 66/254 of 23 February 2012, 66/295 of 17 September 2012 and 68/2 of 20 September 2013 on the intergovernmental process of the General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, and recognizing in this regard that a long-term solution to the problem of the increasing backlog of communications awaiting review by the Committee may be found in this context,

Noting the request of the Committee that the General Assembly authorize an extension of its meeting time by one week in 2014 and one week in 2015,

Noting also that documentation costs constitute the largest part of the budget for the Committee,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made so far by the Human Rights Committee to improve the efficiency of its working methods, including with a view to further harmonizing the working methods of the treaty bodies, and urges the Committee to continue its activities in this regard;

[1] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex; and United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1642, No. 14688.
[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

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2. *Authorizes*, without prejudice to the intergovernmental process of the General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, the addition of one week of meeting time for the Committee in 2014, including an adequate level of Secretariat resources, as a temporary measure, in order to address the backlog of communications under the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[2] awaiting consideration.

72nd plenary meeting
27 December 2013